

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ZINC IN AUGUST 2006

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in August 2006 was 61,500 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in August was 1,980 t, 5% lower than that in July and 11% lower than that in August 2005. Mine production for the first 8 months of 2006 was about 3% lower than that for the first 8 months of 2005. Estimated average daily smelter production of refined zinc was about 13% lower than that in July but about 19% higher than that in August 2005. Apparent consumption of 93,000 t of zinc was 3% lower than that in July but about 24% higher than that in August 2005.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade Zinc for the month of August was 163.83 cents per pound, slightly higher than the July average price but an increase of 160% from the August 2005 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price for

August increased to \$3,346.00 per metric ton of zinc, slightly higher than the price in July but a 158% increase compared with the price in August 2005. During August 2006, global LME zinc stocks dropped by 11,850 t to 172,500 t.

The Defense National Stockpile Center aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in August, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was approximately 1,808 t (1,993 short tons), with an approximate value of \$6.2 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006).

Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006, Stockpile announces zinc BOA sales for August 2006: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, September 5, 1 p.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2005	2006			
	January- December	June	July	August	January- August
Production:					
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	748,000	62,000	67,100	63,800	483,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	720,000	59,800	64,700	61,500	465,000
Smelter, refined zinc ²	259,000	19,200 ^e	22,100 ^e	19,200 ^e	161,000 ^e
Consumption:					
Refined zinc, reported	405,000	34,200	32,400	33,400	271,000
Ores ^e (zinc content)	727	61	61	61	485
Zinc-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	191,000	15,900	15,900	15,900	127,000
Copper-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	176,000	14,700	14,700	14,700	117,000
Aluminum- and magnesium-base scrap ^e (zinc content)	1,430	120	120	120	956
Total ^e	774,000	65,000	63,200	64,200	517,000
Apparent consumption, metal ³	939,000	95,700	95,800	93,000 ⁴	719,000
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:					
Producer ⁵	XX	6,510 ^e	6,340 ^e	6,450 ^e	XX
Consumer ⁶	XX	54,100	54,700	55,500	XX
Merchant	XX	10,400	10,400	10,400	XX
Total	XX	71,000	71,400	72,300	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	20,400	3,270	907	1,810	13,200
Imports for consumption:					
Refined (slab) zinc	668,000	73,300	73,000	NA	476,000 ⁷
Oxide (gross weight)	109,000	10,200	9,960	NA	77,200 ⁷
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	156,000	2,840	115,000	NA	172,000 ⁷
Exports:					
Refined (slab) zinc	784	81	74	NA	949 ⁷
Oxide (gross weight)	14,600	2,350	2,660	NA	16,400 ⁷
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	786,000	12,400	36,100	NA	122,000 ⁷
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	56,000	5,770	6,820	NA	37,000 ⁷
Price:					
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	1,381.37	3,224.66	3,338.80	3,346.00	2,910.37
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	67.14	157.93	163.73	163.83	141.41

^eEstimated. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

³Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

⁴Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

⁵Data from U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

⁶Includes an estimate for companies that report annually.

⁷Includes data through July only.

TABLE 2
REFINED ZINC PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Month	Beginning stocks ³	Production	Shipments	Ending stocks ³
2005:				
August	7,400	20,500	21,000	6,960
September	6,960	19,900	22,500	4,390
October	4,390	22,600	23,000	4,010
November	4,010	24,600	24,500	4,040
December	4,040	23,700	22,200	5,590
January-December	XX	259,000	258,000	XX
2006:				
January	5,590	21,200 ^e	20,100 ^e	6,750
February	6,750	19,000 ^e	20,200 ^e	5,530
March	5,530	22,100 ^e	21,100 ^e	6,580
April	6,580	19,300 ^e	18,800 ^e	7,150
May	7,150	19,100 ^e	19,900 ^e	6,300
June	6,300	19,200 ^e	19,000 ^e	6,510
July	6,510	22,100 ^e	22,300 ^e	6,340
August	6,340	19,200 ^e	19,100 ^e	6,450
January-August	XX	161,000 ^e	160,000 ^e	XX

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

³Includes stocks held at locations other than smelters.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

TABLE 3
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY USE
AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2005	2006			
	January- December	June	July	August ²	January- August
Galvanizing:					
Sheet and strip	392,000	39,400	39,800	38,100	298,000
Other	121,000	13,600	14,000	13,200	99,800
Total	513,000	53,000	53,800	51,300	398,000
Brass and bronze	147,000	15,300	14,200	14,700	112,000
Zinc-base alloy	203,000	20,200	20,500	19,900	154,000
Other uses ³	76,900	7,200	7,300	7,100	55,500
Grand total	939,000	95,700	95,800	93,000	719,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

³Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, castings, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4
AVERAGE ZINC PRICES¹

Period	North American ¢/lb.	LME ² cash	
		¢/lb.	\$/t
2005:			
August	62.94	58.88	1,298.05
September	67.89	63.37	1,397.08
October	72.66	67.49	1,487.91
November	78.47	73.06	1,610.61
December	88.01	82.62	1,821.44
January-December	67.14	62.66	1,381.37
2006:			
January	100.96	94.80	2,089.92
February	106.84	100.65	2,218.90
March	116.80	109.61	2,416.44
April	148.56	139.88	3,083.75
May	172.59	161.68	3,564.51
June	157.93	146.27	3,224.66
July	163.73	151.45	3,338.80
August	163.83	151.77	3,346.00
January-August	141.41	132.01	2,910.37

¹Special High Grade.

²London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

Material	2005		2006 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	July		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	784	\$1,500	74	\$85	949	\$1,960
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	786,000	477,000	36,100	33,300	122,000	99,700
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	56,000	62,000	6,820	7,870	37,000	48,300
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	9,310	18,500	1,500	2,680	7,970	15,400
Oxide (gross weight)	14,600	23,600	2,660	4,490	16,400	25,800
Chloride (gross weight)	1,860	2,310	113	121	731	870
Sulfate (gross weight)	2,820	1,870	9,000	5,520	16,100	10,300
Compounds, other (gross weight)	1,130	887	81	171	508	936

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for August 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC¹

Material	2005		2006 ²			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	July		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	668,000	\$875,000	73,000	\$190,000	476,000	\$945,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	156,000	117,000	115,000	35,100	172,000	101,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	9,580	8,820	1,020	1,480	8,180	9,950
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	23,400	46,000	2,770	10,800	16,400	51,100
Oxide (gross weight)	109,000	127,000	9,960	21,600	77,200	130,000
Chloride (gross weight)	723	1,250	20	31	829	1,160
Sulfate (gross weight)	31,100	16,600	2,300	1,870	24,400	15,700
Compounds, other (gross weight)	7,010	6,370	339	232	4,130	2,830

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Data for August 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Beginning inventory	Shipments	Ending inventory
2005:			
August	59,500	3,680	55,800
September	55,800	3,710	52,100
October	52,100	3,010	49,100
November	49,100	2,830	46,300
December	46,300	299	46,000
January-December	XX	20,400	XX
2006:			
January	46,000	1,890	44,100
February	44,100	526	43,600
March	43,600	1,720	41,900
April	41,900	2,810	39,000
May	39,000	301	38,700
June	38,700	3,270	35,500
July	35,500	907	34,600
August	34,600	1,810	32,800
January-August	XX	13,200	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Defense Logistics Agency.

TABLE 8
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
		July	Year to date		July	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	8,590	--	2,850	8,590	--	2,850
Ireland	13,000	4,110	12,600	13,000	4,110	12,600
Mexico	27,300	9,340	26,500	27,300	9,340	26,500
Peru	104,000	101,000	127,000	104,000	101,000	127,000
Other	2,900	559	2,240	2,900	559	2,240
Total	156,000	115,000	172,000	156,000	115,000	172,000
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	1	10,000	10,000	24,600	13,400	35,700
Brazil	43,700	--	6,460	43,800	374	7,870
Canada	439,000	40,200	306,000	439,000	40,200	306,000
China	15	--	3	2,140	4,360	35,700
Japan	--	251	251	1,210	1,020	5,260
Korea, Republic of	5,030	--	--	8,710	5,100	38,200
Mexico	147,000	7,920	43,500	147,000	7,920	43,800
Norway	--	--	--	--	149	1,130
Peru	235	--	194	834	--	471
Other	1,320	--	21	1,770	479	1,740
Total	636,000	58,400	367,000	668,000	73,000	476,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	15,800	1,870	19,300	15,800	1,870	19,300
Grand total	807,000	175,000	558,000	840,000	189,000	667,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	62,000	3,580	30,900	62,000	3,580	30,900
China	173	61	117	173	61	117
Italy	15,400	2,600	14,400	15,400	2,600	14,400
Japan	1,080	83	691	1,080	83	691
Mexico	24,100	2,270	18,100	24,100	2,270	18,100
Netherlands	4,450	1,010	4,050	4,450	1,010	4,050
Other	2,040	354	9,040	2,040	354	9,040
Total	109,000	9,960	77,200	109,000	9,960	77,200
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	9,580	1,020	8,180	9,580	1,020	8,180
Sheets	3,630	69	1,200	3,630	69	1,200
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	23,400	2,770	16,400	23,400	2,770	16,400

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Data for August 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.